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INFORMATION REPORT

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1. The internal situation in the Soviet Union has recently (prior to July 1951) shown a new trend to the detriment of the present regime. This trend is chiefly the result of the penetration and effect the Voice of America has on the Soviet population.

2. In spite of stern measures taken against listeners or those who spread information tion from broadcasts of foreign radio stations, and in spite of the restricted number of radio sets in circulation, the spreading of the American propaganda has begun to make the Soviet authorities uneasy, especially since the broadcasts of the Voice of America are frequently found in mimeographed copies scattered in different districts, particlarly in labor districts and in the countryside. Suspicions are expressed that persons holding confidential positions might be involved in this movement.

3. During the 1951 May Day celebrations, a large number of proclamations circulated in the towns of Odessa, Kiev, Leningrad, and in the capitals of the Baltic States as well. These proclamations were mostly full of Communist anti-Stalin propaganda; some others were in support of a Russian democracy based on the pattern of the West. In their epilogue they called on the people to revolt and overthrow the present regime.

4. Many officials who hold responsible positions in the Soviet Government machine were agitated because of these proclamations. In his capacity as the responsible person in this field, Lavrenti P. Beriya was the one most affected.

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